onwards, the rescheduling of the Railways is likely to go on. So, I would like to know whether a meeting would be convened before that.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether you will be willing to convene the constituency-wise meetings.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, as I have said, when all the Committees including those of the Divisional and Zonal levels start functioning, we would as a matter of fact be covering even a lower level then envisaged by the hon. Member. We take the responsibility at our level. At the lower level, the officers below us will be responsible for monitoring.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Child Abuses

*522. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inquiry into the child abuses has been undertaken by the Union Government recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) An Advisory Committee was constituted by the Government of India at the Central level in March 1994 to suggest measures to be taken for eradicating child prostitution. The recommendations made by the Committee have been sent to the State Governments for appropriate action.

The Government of India is attempting to bring about an overall improvement in the status of children, especially girl children, through better education, health care and empowerment of women. The National Human Rights Commission has also formed a Core Group to study the problem of child prostitution in Delhi and Karnataka and to work on preventive and rehabilitative strategies.

The perception of child labour as a harsh outcome of the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country has led to an enhanced consciousness on the need to tackle the problem of child labour in a multi-dimensional and integrated manner. Keeping in view the fact that legislation alone would not be sufficient to tackle the problem of exploitation of child labour, the Government formulated the National Policy on Child Labour which was announced in Parliament in August 1987. The action plan under the National Policy on Child Labour comprises a legislative action plan, focussing of general development programmes for benefitting children wherever possible and project based action plans in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment. With a view to fulfilling the constitutional mandate, a major programme was launched on 15th August, 1994 for rehabilitating child labour working in hazardous occupations. A high powered body, the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) was constituted on 26th September, 1994 under the chairmanship of Labour Minister.

India is a signatory to the World Declaration on the survival, protection and development of children. In order to implement the World Summit Goals, the Department of Women and Child Development has prepared a National Plan of Action in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments and voluntary organisations. This Plan addresses health and family welfare related activities, removal of gender discrimination and special protection for economically, socially and physically disadvantaged groups.

[Translation]

River Pollution

*523. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought financial assistance from the foreign countries/agencies to make the Ganga and other rivers of the country pollution free;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes under which the assistance is expected, country-wise; and

(c) the time by which the amount of assistance is likely to be recieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

DETAILS OF THE SCHEMES UNDER WHICH ASSISTANCE IS EXPECTED

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Country from which assistance is expected	Time by which assistance expected
1	2	3	4
1	Ganga Action Plan Phase-II (Kanpur)	The Netherlands	1996-97

1	2	3	4
2.	Industrial Counselling Tanneries-II (Kanpur)	The Netherlands	Under consideration of the Netherlands Govt.
3.	Gomti Action Plan at Lucknow (Phase II of the assistance)	Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom ODA (UK)	Exact time would be known after March 1997
4.	Pollution Abatement in the Coastal Stretches of Madras City	European Economic Community (EEC)	Under consideration of the European Economic Community (EEC)

[English]

Medicine Scam

*526. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item, appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated August 9, 1996 under the caption 'Rs. 4 cr. medicine scam in Tihar Jail'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Inspector General (Prisons), Delhi had ordered an inquiry into the procurement, stocking and issue of medicines in the Central Jail, Tihar during the year 1994-95. The Committee set up for the purpose detected irregularities in the overall management of medicines in the Jail. The irregularities relate, inter-alia, to understating the cost of medicines proposed to be purchased, purchase of medicines when sufficient stocks were available, procurement of medicines of doubtful utility, inflated quantities of medicines shown as issued and purchase of medicines at high prices. The report of the Committee has been forwarded by the Jail authorities to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for appropriate action.

Setting up of Fertilizer Plant

*527. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Oman have signed a joint venture agreement for setting up of a fertilizer plant in October;

(b) the reasons for not undertaking the project earlier as the Memorandum of Understanding for the same was signed two years back;

(c) whether the project will be set up in Oman and the entire output will be purchased by India under a buy back agreement, at the international prices;

(d) the Indian equity in the joint venture;

(e) the role India expect to perform in the project which will produce both urea and ammonia with the participation of KRIBHCO and RCF; and

(f) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of India/Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO)/Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF) and the Government of Sultanate of Oman/Oman Oil Company on 30th July, 1994 to prepare a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for setting up of 3500 tonnes per day ammonia and 4400 tonnes per day urea project in Oman. The DFR has been received. The project could not be undertaken because of delays in preparation of the DFR, finalisation of the project agreements and selection of the preferred Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) bidder for setting up the project on Lump Sum Turn Key (LSTK) basis. These activities have fallen behind schedule because of protracted negotiations between the two sides on the project agreements, delay in appointment of the LSTK consultant, acceptance of the request of EPC bidders for extension of the bid time and resignation of M/s Morgan Stanley as the Financial Advisor to the project, consequent to changes in the management of the Oman Oil Company. Evaluation of the EPC bids had to be deferred till the new Financial Advisor was appointed.